

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Edward Buttrey, on April 11, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)
Sen. Dee Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Tom Facey (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Keim, Committee Secretary
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SJ 26, 4/6/2017
Executive Action: Do Pass As Amended: SJ 26

00:00:01 Chair Buttrey

Vice Chair Brown assumed the position of chair.

00:01:35 Chair Brown

HEARING ON SJ 26

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:45 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SJ 26. Study revising laws regulating alcohol distribution in the state.

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:43 Sen. Ed Buttrey, SD 11

Opponents' Testimony:

00:13:31 Kristi Blazer, Montana Beer and Wine Distributor's Association; also speaking for Mike Markovich, Summit Beverage, Butte

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a02\)](#)

00:23:05 Brian Clark, CEO, Fun Beverage, Incorporated (FB), Kalispell

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a05\)](#)

00:43:00 Dave Irvin, president, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors; Eagle Beverage, Great Falls

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a06\)](#)

00:46:04 Bill Watkins, president, Zip Beverage (ZB), Missoula and Butte

[EXHIBIT\(bus76a07\)](#)

00:48:37 Carter Mollgaard, M & C Beverage Incorporated (MCBI), Miles City

00:50:49 Brian Smith, Blackfoot River Brewing Company

00:53:34 Tracy Prescott, past president, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana

00:54:07 Janet Prescott, self, alcohol industry

Informational Testimony:

00:56:07 Shauna Helfert, Liquor Control Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:56:31 Sen. Facey

00:58:41 Ms. Helfert, DOR

00:59:02 Sen. Vance

00:59:30 Sen. Fitzpatrick
 01:01:06 Sen. Facey
 01:01:37 Ms. Helfert
 01:02:15 Sen. Facey
 01:02:48 Mr. Mollgaard, MCBI
 01:03:15 Sen. Facey
 01:03:49 Sen. Fitzpatrick
 01:05:02 Sen. Smith
 01:08:04 Sen. Fitzpatrick
 01:08:29 Sen. Salomon
 01:10:06 Mr. Clark, FB
 01:10:34 Chair Brown
 01:12:05 Ms. Helfert
 01:12:13 Sen. Facey
 01:13:31 Mr. Watkins, ZB

Closing by Sponsor:

01:13:42 Sen. Fitzpatrick
 01:15:26 Chair Brown

Sen. Buttrey assumed the position of chair.

01:15:31 Chair Buttrey
 01:16:00 Recess
 01:24:10 Reconvened

Sen. Connell did not return to the hearing.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 26

01:24:32 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SJ 26 DO PASS.**
 01:24:44 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SJ 26 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried 7-3 by roll call vote with Sen. F. Smith, Sen. Vance and Sen. Vuckovich voting no. Sen. Connell voted by proxy.
 01:26:14 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SJ 26 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

01:26:31 Sen. Facey
 01:27:51 Sen. Vance
 01:28:45 Chair Buttrey
 01:29:37 Sen. Vance
 01:29:47 Sen. Smith
 01:30:43 Sen. Brown
 01:31:20 Sen. Vuckovich

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01:32:34 Sen. Brown
01:33:07 Chair Buttrey

01:35:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Facey, Sen. F. Smith, Sen. Vance and Sen. Vuckovich voting no. Sen. Connell voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

01:36:10 Chair Buttrey
01:36:39 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
01:36:50 Chair Buttrey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:38 AM

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus76aad.pdf](#))